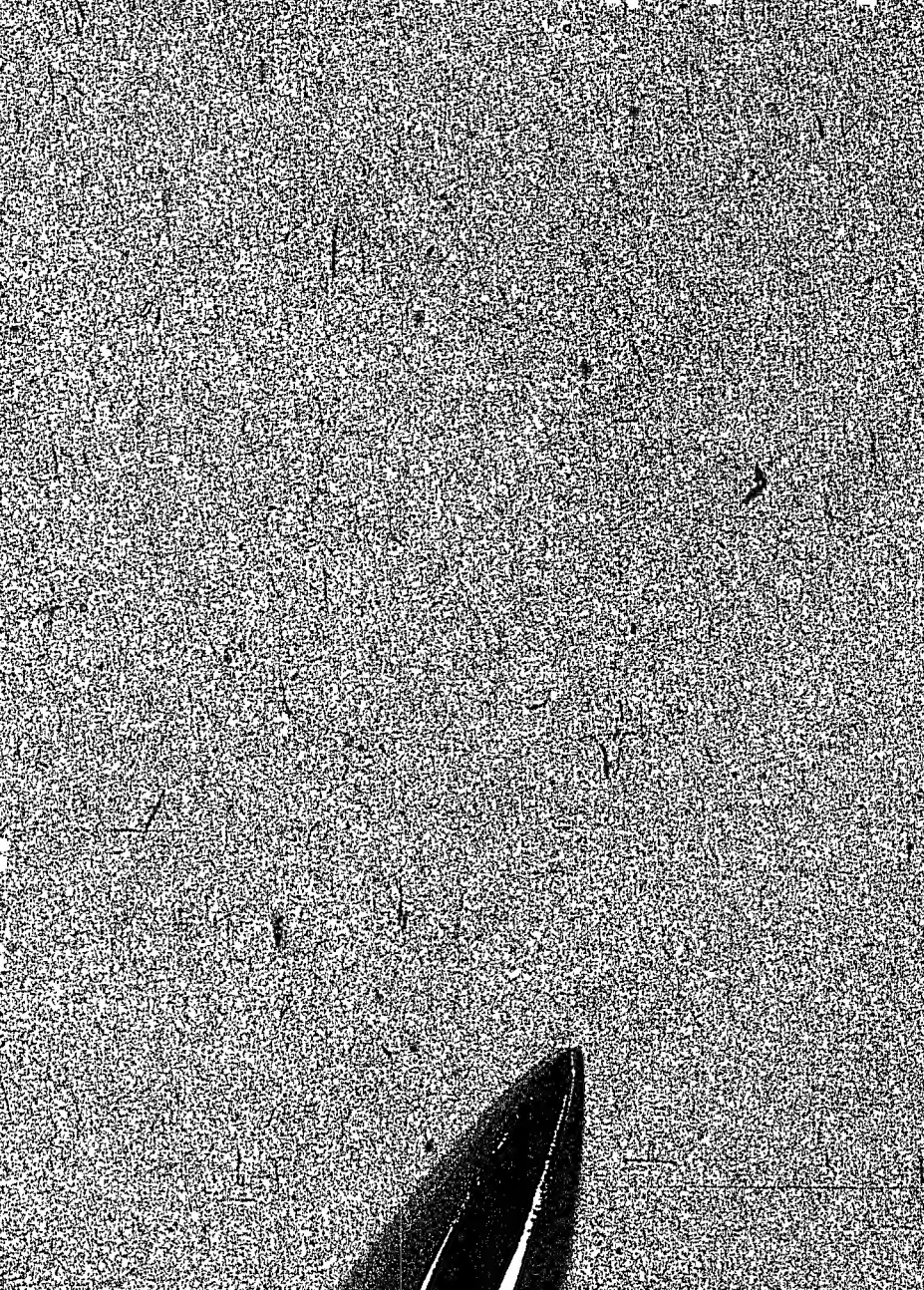


# SILVER JUBILEE

St. Anne's Parish  
Blairmore, Alberta

Ad Gloriam Dei  
et  
In Honorem Parochianorum

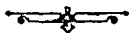
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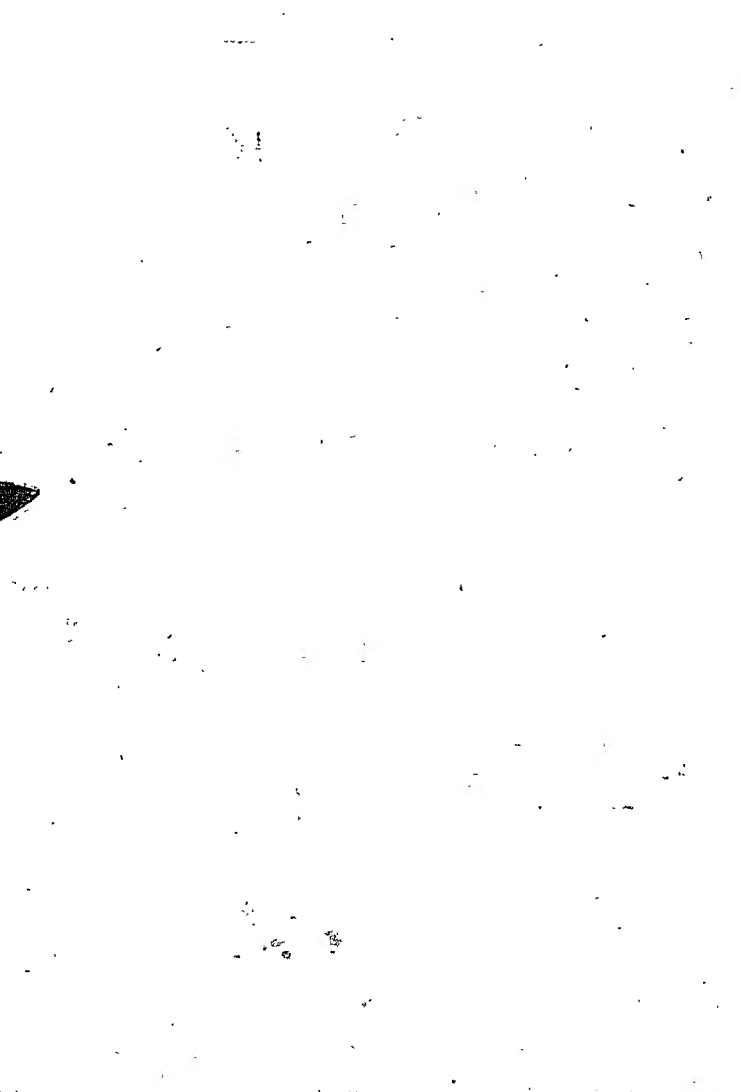
# 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

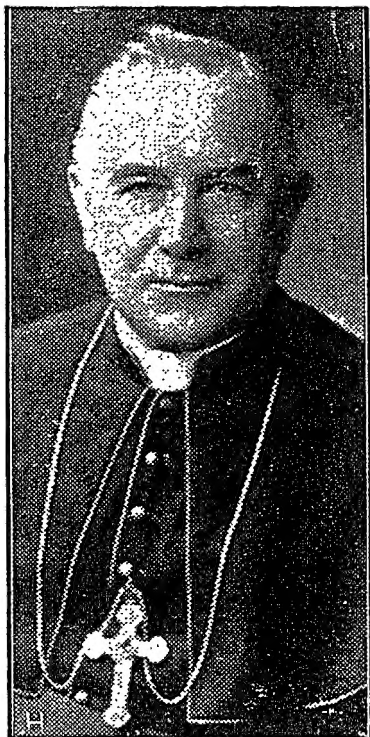


St. Anne's Parish  
Blairmore, Alberta



The Enterprise Job Print  
Blairmore, Alberta.





**RT. REV. P. J. MONAHAN, D.D.**  
Bishop of Calgary 1932-35.

Recently appointed Archbishop of Regina



## FOREWORD

This booklet has been prepared as a tribute to the memory of the Apostle Spirit of the priests who have laboured in Frank and Blairmore; to Catholic parishioners who co-operated so loyally with them, and to Non-Catholic friends for their assistance and encouragement in many and various ways.

To you all, friends of the past and present, who may read these pages, some things may be missing that you would desire to have recalled, and, too, perhaps, some others recalled that you would prefer to have seen passed over; whichever it may be, it has not been done with any malice.

Some of the priests who have had charge here, their pictures do not appear, as Fathers Sammutt, Lepine, and others, because they could not be procured; also Bishop Legal. For Bishop Legal and Father DeWilde we beseech Almighty God to grant them eternal rest.

For all former parishioners whose remains lie in St. Anne's Cemetery or elsewhere, we beseech Almighty God to have mercy on them.

You friends, whose greetings or advertisements appear herein, accept our sincere appreciation.

To the committee who have been so considerate, to present parishioners, and to all who have assisted in this work, the writer extends his heartfelt gratitude.

Hand in hand may we continue to attain greater achievements for the Honor and Glory of Almighty God.

—Father Harrington.

St. Benoit du Lac, Que.,  
May 14th, 1935.

Rev. Father M. A. Harrington,  
Pastor of Blairmore, Alta.

Reverend Father: I am sending you what I could write according to the best of my recollection about the beginnings of the Catholic church in the Crows' Nest Pass. I hope it will give you satisfaction, and on my part I am very pleased to contribute in so small a way to the festivities you are preparing in my always-dear former missions. I am only sorry that Father Donovan could not know that I was not any more, for these last four years, in Tracadie, N.B., his letter had to go there and come back. That is the reason for my delay in answering you. I hope there will be time yet for you to make use of what I send you.

Although I have not the pleasure of knowing you personally, be sure, dear Father, I take the greatest interest in all that concerns the Catholics of the Crows' Nest Pass. I ask you to give my good souvenirs to those I knew and who remember me yet. Also kindly give my brotherly regards to Father Donovan.

Believe me, dear Father,

Yours most truly in Xto and S.B.,

Father F. M. LAJAT, O.S.B.



## Memoirs

WHEN the people of Saint Anne's Parish, Blairmore, determined to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the parish, one of the first problems was to secure some information about their beginnings twenty-five years ago. Heedless of fame, the pastors who served the Blairmore parish did their work in faith and humility and passed on, leaving only meagre record of their pastorate of Saint Anne's to hand over to the writer of this article when asked to find the records of the past, scattered hither and yon, mouldy with dust, tattered with age, and to combine them into a readable article of memoirs for the twenty-fifth anniversary. But, as imagination bodies forth the forms of things unknown, and the poet's pen turns them to shapes and gives, at last, to dusty nothingness a local habitation and a name, the writer has found some information that he hopes will be of interest.

It was only by a lucky chance that I met the first pastor of Blairmore. Down in New Brunswick in 1928 it chanced that I visited the town of Tracadie on the North East coast of that province. Tracadie is a town of legend, and famous for having been for nearly a century the home of the only Leper Colony in Canada. The few people afflicted with that disease have been for years treated in a modern hospital at Tracadie. After celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Lazaretto, on a dark November morning at an early hour, I asked to see the chaplain and was introduced to Rev. Pere Felix Lajat, O.S.B., an old man now, but of consuming interest to me when I found out that he was the pioneer and founder of the parishes of Frank and Blairmore.

He invited me to visit him both afternoon and evening of that day. I found he had very comfortable and

modern lodgings in the hospital. He kept me with him till late into the night of that November day in 1928. He loved to talk about his memories of his pastorate in the Crows' Nest Pass. Anxious to hear about the "early days," without thought of ever having to reproduce the story of them, I listened with interest to the old man's exploits in the territory in which I myself was then working. His memory for his old friends, and for events and details of all kinds was truly remarkable. On Rev. Father Harrington's behalf I wrote to Tracadie for his memoirs. The letter was forwarded to him at Saint Benoit du Lac, P.Q., and he got busy and wrote out his memoirs of Blairmore and The Pass.

It is wonderful that the old man should write such good English, he being a Breton, and except for his few years in the West, nearly always in charge of French parishes. We print them as they are to lose nothing of their value. Among the high lights of his story the following might be mentioned. Most Rev. Bishop Legal of the diocese of Saint Albert celebrated the first Mass in Blairmore in 1905. He was accompanied by Rev. Albert Lacombe, the famous missionary. At Pincher Creek they packed the very many requisites for the celebration, but in spite of all their care they left out one indispensable thing, the chalice. A silver mug was supplied by a resident, it was consecrated by the bishop and used. As it could not afterwards be used for any other purpose, the bishop took it along with him to Saint Albert, where perhaps it still is, the improvised chalice used at the first Mass in Blairmore.

Pere Lajat speaks of Rev. Fr. DeWilde establishing himself in Coleman in 1905. Father DeWilde was a man of great attainments, a man of culture, a man of scholarship, a man of holiness. I myself have seen part of the beautiful red morocco-bound library that he donated to Saint John's College, Edmonton. It bespeaks the scholar and the esthete. Little did the folks in the Crows' Nest in those pioneer days realize the magnificent type of priest sent to minister to them.

Then he tells of being sent by Bishop Legal to Frank, where he established his residence. There is a less happy

contrast in his memoirs about the kindness of the Non-Catholics, Mr. C. P. Hill, of Hillcrest, and the doctors of the district, as contrasted with the indifference of some of his own flock. Mr. Hill promised him land for a church at Hillcrest in 1908, but it was not till 1925 that the Catholic people were ready to build, and then the land was donated by the company succeeding Mr. Hill, under the management of Mr. W. Stevenson. Pere Lajat is in error about the Hillcrest Cemetery. Whatever land was given for a cemetery then became the public cemetery of the town. It was not till 1928 that land was afforded for Saint Theresa's cemetery in Hillcrest.

The great strike in Nova Scotia in 1908 brought him some good friends and parishioners. He is ready to build a church in the year 1910 at Frank. He tells the details of the project and mentions Bishop Legal coming down to the Pass and consecrating it under the "vocale" (name) of the Blessed Sacrament. Rev. Pere Lepine was the celebrant. He

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"passes on France to Beg" like Pere Lacombe who used to pass on Quebec for the same purpose, and he did not return empty handed. He mentions every single thing he brought back, and the name of the donors or makers. One beautiful set of white hand-made vestments was given him for the distant west by two ladies who were his little friends when he was young in his native place, Quintin, Brittany, France.

He has a drole story about the bell which now tolls the knell of parting day from the tower of Saint Anne's. He ordered it founded in France, comes back to Frank, Alberta, sets a date with Bishop Legal to come and bless the bell, which has not yet arrived from France. He knows what day the bishop will be there for the blessing, but he has only a vague idea of the season of the arrival of the bell. That would be a trait of Pere Lajat's genius. Finding themselves in a ridiculous situation, they have recourse to prayer, and prayed "hard" for God to rescue them. They were in very truth "men with the hearts of vikings, and the simple faith of a child." But the bell, en-route from France, arrived at Frank station on a late way-freight on Saturday night, the evening before the day set for the Bishop's visit and the blessing.

He tells of using the school in Blairmore for the holding of services, and on the school being needed by the trustees, he secures a small building from Mrs. McLaughlin, which they fitted up to serve as a chapel. This property was used until Rev. Father Cosman came and built the present Saint Anne's church. After four years in the pass, that is from 1907 to 1911, he was transferred to Strathmore and his place taken on the Crows' Nest Pass mission by Rev. Father Sammutt, who was the first resident parish priest of Blairmore.

Twenty-five years have passed since the day that Pere Lajat established the mission in Blairmore. The town and the district round about have progressed wonderfully during that time. The care of the church has been in the hands of successive pastors, Fathers Lajat, Sammutt, Delestre, Beaton, DeWilde, Cosman and Harrington.

Counting from the day that Bishop Legal borrowed a silver cup to celebrate the first Mass in the district, and recalling to mind the scanty resources, old timers and new timers must realize that a great work has been done to build up St. Anne's Parish. It is today, on its silver jubilee, one of the best equipped and most fervent, devoted parishes in southern Alberta. Ad multos annos.

Contributed by  
Rev. R. J. DONOVAN  
Former pastor of St. Cyril's  
parish, Bellevue.

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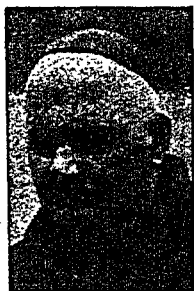
(Incorporated February 4th, 1905)

## Early Days

IT WOULD not be possible for me to say exactly when the populations of the Crows' Nest Pass, in the diocese of St. Albert (now diocese of Calgary) began to be visited by a priest. I am sure those who could remember better than anyone would be Mr. Raoul Green, Mrs. Dutil, Mrs. Joseph Boudreau (Mary Sunstrum) now at Three Rivers, Que., Laviolette Street.

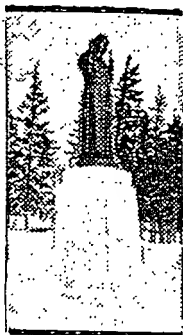
Rev. Father Blanchet, O.M.I., then located at Macleod, claimed that he had been the first priest to attend these places, and that he had been going there before the Frank Slide happened (April 29th, 1903 or 1904, I cannot recall the exact year). So it was he who performed some services (if any were performed) in that tragic circumstance. But I hardly believe that he went there to celebrate Holy Mass.

The Right Reverend Bishop Legal, then Bishop of St. Albert, who died the first archbishop of Edmonton, told me at least twice that it was he himself who said the first Mass at Blairmore; but it is impossible for me to remember the date. It certainly was before the year 1905 and, I should think, before the Frank Slide, I should believe that it was after that visit of his that he entrusted Father Blanchet with the care of visiting those places once in a while. Father Lacombe was already at Pincher Creek, but did not go any further west.



Rev. Felix Lajat,  
Pastor of Frank  
and Blairmore  
1907 - 1911.

It was precisely on the occasion of a visit to Father Lacombe that Bishop Legal went with him and some other priest, to investigate conditions in the Pass. The party reached Blairmore, where His Lordship said Mass: the first Mass celebrated there. I cannot say in which house it was said, but the event was marked by an incident about which the Bishop liked to speak afterwards. When the various vessels, etc., necessary were taken out of the bag prepared at Pincher Creek, everything was found in good order except the chalice, which had been forgotten! Thanks be to God, a sort of silver cup, gilt inside, was found in one of the houses, and was offered by the owner. The Bishop said he was willing to use it for Mass, but that afterwards the cup could not serve any more for usual purposes. The owner generously answered that he would gladly make a present of it, and His Lordship consecrated it and celebrated the Holy Sacrifice. His Lordship told me on several occasions that he was keeping the cup at his home, intending to have some record of the fact engraved on it and to give it to the first priest stationed at Blairmore, "as a souvenir of the first Mass said there," to be preserved in the church.



Father Lacombe monument at St. Albert, Alberta.

After the Frank Slide, the priest who visited the Pass was Father Maurice Lepine, O.M.I., who resides now at the industrial school, Mission City, B.C., Diocese of Vancouver. I know nothing about the time or the extent of Father Lepine's work in those missions, but I am sure Mr. Raoul Green and Mrs. Dutil spoke of him several times to me, so they certainly should be able to give all particulars about it.





Rev. Fr. DeWilde,  
Parish Priest at  
Coleman up to  
1910. Visited Blair-  
1905 - 1908.

Nevertheless, no priest ever resided in the Pass until the year 1905. It was about the second half of that year, if I am not mistaken, that Rev. Father DeWilde was sent by Bishop Legal to take care of all those different missions, that is to say, Coleman, Blairmore, Frank, Lille, Bellevue and Hillcrest. Blairmore was yet very small, and counted only a few Catholic families. Frank had been ruined by the slide, and only began to revive over its own ashes. Lille was far away in the mountains; Bellevue and Hillcrest, the most remote places, were of only a few scattered houses. The new missionary established himself at Coleman.

Father DeWilde has left in the country the souvenir of a saintly priest, very supernatural and attached to his flock. He accepted a life of

real poverty and solitude, and certainly did a great amount of good. But such kind of life could not but tell too much on his already very poor health. If I am not mistaken, it was he who built the church at Coleman. Having a great facility for languages, he could speak fluently French, German, English, Italian and Flemish, and could read Spanish—so he was pretty well able to understand a great part of his many parishioners. During the spring of 1910 the pitiful state of his health obliged him to request a change.

It was in September 1907 that Bishop Legal sent me to the Pass and after considering the situation and taking advice from several of the chief parishioners, I judged the proper place for my residence should be Frank. Father DeWilde kept the charge of Coleman and Blairmore; but in September 1908 at his demand Blairmore was detached from his mission and was united to mine. I had, there-

fore, under my care, first Frank, Lille, Bellevue and Hillcrest; and a year later, Blairmore.

Frank was doing well again at that time; there was a pretty good number of Catholics, principally of Irish or German descent: A. V. Lang, Eugene Schnurr, Harvey Murphy, Hugh McDonald, Alec McKinnon, C. V. O'Hara were amongst the first. The James Boyd family deserves a special mention, the holy sacrifice of the Mass having been said at their home up to that date. There were also a few Slavonians, fewer maybe than elsewhere, the principal of them being Peter Bakus. Besides them, many others remained, but never set their feet in church. Every Saturday night, when there was to be Mass in the place the next day, I used to go around all the houses where I knew there were Catholics, and notify them; but I soon became aware that such a thing was absolutely useless.

Lille could have, at that time, a population of 500 to 800, mostly Italians. The very few Catholics were Mr. Raoul Green, who then lived at Lille, and was not yet married; Clovis Faure, the Sicotte family and one or two more families. I used to say Mass either at the Sicotte home or in the school. Mr. Williams, the superintendent of the mine, one of the straightest and sincerest men I ever knew, was very favorable to us and always did his best to help me whenever and in as much as he was able, going so far as to reprehend those who never came to church.

Bellevue included Italians and chiefly Slavonians. As for Hillcrest, a great part of the population was composed of French who, unfortunately, were very much opposed to religion.

The owner of the mine, Mr. Hill, always showed himself a true gentleman, and at the time of a visit of the Bishop in 1908, he received His Lordship very kindly and promised to give ground for a church. It was he also who in 1909 gave us the ground of the Hillcrest cemetery, offering it by himself without even waiting to be asked for it.

Therefore, I decided that the place where I was to reside should be Frank. The beginnings, as usual, were hard; the most painful thing being the hostility of so many amongst those who should have been Catholics. Amongst the Protestants, I can say I always found courtesy and gentleness and even true friendship. One thing which often made my work more easy was the goodwill of the different doctors. Dr. Malcolmson was an excellent man and in his hospital at Frank I could go at any time of the day or night, without the least difficulty. We were real friends, bound to each other by the ties of a mutual esteem. I should say the same thing of Dr. MacKay, who succeeded him and died so soon. As for Dr. McKenzie, of Bellevue, it will be enough if I repeat here what I was pleased to tell him in some special circumstance: I knew I could depend on him for what concerned my Catholic flock as much as on any Catholic doctor.

In 1908, the strike, which lasted so long in Cape Breton, N.S., brought quite a number of men and even a few families to the Pass, amongst whom were Chrys. Tompkins and J. C. Boudreau. Chrys. Tompkins came alone first, bringing over his family only one year later. As for J. C. Boudreau, he was to find a very happy fate in Blairmore, in the person of Miss Mary Sunstrum.

As I have already said, I took charge of Blairmore during the Ember Week in September 1908. Blairmore was very little developed at that time. The superintendent of the mining company was Mr. Rameau, who remained only one more year and went back to France. There was no church, but the trustees had left to the Catholics, anteriorly to my coming, the free use of a school which they did not need at the time, under condition that it should be returned to them whenever they requested it. This happened at Easter 1909. A few weeks before we were notified that the school would be needed immediately after Easter, and consequently we had to look for some other place, the congregation beginning to be pretty good when I said Mass every second Sunday. Mrs. E. McLaughlin



Blairmore, 1915. Church marked with arrow, opera house, now Columbus Hall, marked with an X.

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sold us then a building which served as a little church.

The beautiful ground of the Blairmore cemetery had been given by the West Canadian Collieries Co. in 1907.

I was always residing at Frank. With the permission of the Bishop, I said two Masses every Sunday; at that time, another mission had developed: Passburg. So I said Mass alternately in this way: one Sunday, Frank and Passburg the next Sunday Blairmore and Bellevue. To Hillcrest I used to go also once in a while.

In 1910, the time seemed to have come to try the

building of a church at Frank. A subscription list was passed amongst the population. A. V. Lang and Harvey Murphy took the charge of presenting it to the business men, obtaining a very good result. J. C. Boudreau kept for himself the very hard charge of circulating it among the working people. A plan having been provided by the Rt. Rev. Bishop, tenders were asked for the building, and E. Morino, of Bellevue, got the contract for the construction. The first stroke of the pick was given on Monday, the 26th of July, 1910, on the Feast of St. Anne, and the whole structure was finished for the 13th of November of the same year. On that day the Rt. Rev. Bishop Emile J. Legal blessed solemnly the new church, under the vocable of the Blessed Sacrament, in the presence of a very great crowd from all the surrounding places, and even from Pincher Creek and Macleod. The Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Lepine, former missionary of the Pass.

## Greetings --

to St. Anne's  
Catholic Church,  
Blairmore, on its

## SILVER JUBILEE

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## Greetings --

to St. Anne's  
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25th Anniversary

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Frank, 1912. The Church is shown in the upper left, overlooking the town. In the foreground is the Franco-Canadian power house smoke stack and C.P.R. coaling shutes.

In the evening of Christmas of the same year I left on a four months trip to France. The midnight Mass had been very beautiful, the church being as full as it could be. When I returned; God permitted that I could bring back quite a number of things, most of which I had received as presents overseas. Eight Mass vestments, a lamp for the Blessed Sacrament, candelabras of various kinds, and chiefly six beautiful statues. Five of them were destined for the church of Frank; a splendid Sacred Heart, the gift of Mrs. Poulat-Franco, Dijon, France; Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. Benedict, offered by the Rt. Rev. Father D. Leopold Gaugain, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Martin of Liguge, France; St. Anthony, the gift of Mrs. A. Manuel, of Frank. The sixth statue was a beautiful St. Anne, in wood, which I decided should be my own souvenir to

Blairmore. It came from the Ursuline Monastery in my native place, Quintin, in Brittany.

But the principal souvenir I brought from the Old Country was the bell, which I am told is now in Blairmore. Bishop Legal had the kindness to come purposely to Frank to bless it, but on what date I cannot remember.

(It will be easy to find the exact date—it was on the evening of the Sunday when His Lordship administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at Pincher Creek, and on the next day went for confirmation to Coleman, 1911).

It was indeed a special token of bounty and interest that His Lordship gave us on that occasion. He was giving confirmation and was not supposed to stop at Frank that year, but when I gave him an account of my trip and of what I had brought over with me, he himself graciously offered to come and bless the bell on the day he was to give confirmation at Pincher Creek. After the ceremony in that place, he immediately took an automobile and came to Frank.

On that occasion we had a moment of real uneasiness. The very day before the blessing, the bell had not come yet. It was coming by freight from some place in Lorraine, France, and was not even signalled. The preceding days we had prayed hard, and could do nothing better. On Saturday, the evening before the Bishop's coming, I was preparing different things in the church when a young girl, Marguerite Lang, came running to tell me the bell was at the railway station. Blessed be God! It had come in just thirty days from its far remote founding place in France. Our prayers had not been in vain.

Before closing this relation, it might be good to say something about the origin of the vestments, or other church goods which we had in the various places.

The beautiful white chasuble with an embroidered cross, very delicately elaborated and all hand work, was the work of two ladies who had been my little friends when we were very young. The red velvet one, with gold braid, at Blairmore, was made by Mrs. Roy, my housekeeper, in 1911. The other vestments were brought from

France. The chalice of the Blairmore church was bought by subscription by the Catholics of the place when I took charge of that mission. It cost \$30.00.

I left the Pass in November, 1911, being sent to Strathmore, and Father Sammutt came to take charge of the missions, being the first to establish his residence in Blairmore.

—Fr. FELIX M. LAJAT, O.S.B.

—XXX—

### THEN AND NOW

— 1905 —

(from The Frank Paper)

"Services held at 11 a.m. as follows: Lille, 1st Sunday in the month; Blairmore, 2nd Sunday; Frank, 3rd Sunday; Coleman, 4th Sunday. M. Lepine, priest."

— 1935 —

Services at the present time are as follows:

Sunday Masses 8.30, 10.30.

Benediction 7.30 p.m.

Week Day Masses 8.00.

Catechism daily 8.30 a.m.

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## THE FRANK SLIDE



Frank Slide, April 29, 1903. At dawn of this date, a huge mass of rock nearly half a mile square and probably 400 to 500 feet thick in places, broke loose from the east face of Turtle Mountain and precipitated itself some 3000 feet to the valley beneath. Up the opposite terraced slopes it went to a height of 400 feet. The valley, over an area of 1.05 square miles was covered to a depth of from 3 to 150 feet. The number of people killed is not known exactly, but it is given at about 70. Approximately 90,796,000 tons of rock came down. The entire town, as sometimes thought, was not buried. The white line through the picture marks the Alberta Provincial Highway, No. 3, winding its course from the east through Maple Leaf and Bellevue towards the Slide.

# A Quarter Century

**T**O A little building, bought from a Mrs. McLaughlin in 1910 and used as a place of worship, devout Catholics living in Blairmore during that year wended their way to attend the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and then only on alternate Sundays. This little building with its few members was destined to be the beginning of St. Anne's Catholic Parish as it is known in Blairmore today.

Previous to 1910, the Rev. Felix Lajat was responsible for looking after the Catholic needs in many missions in The Pass, Blairmore being one of them. It is recalled that the first Mass celebrated in Blairmore took place in the year 1905, the celebrant of the notable event being the Rt. Rev. Bishop Legal in charge of the diocese of St. Albert. He was accompanied by the Rev. Pere Albert Lacombe, who in later years was instrumental in having established at Midnapore, Alberta, a home for the aged and orphan children, and which was named after this saintly priest. (May his Soul rest in peace).

For many years the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass continued to be celebrated in the building bought in 1910, and which today is the vestry of the present Roman Catholic Church.

Father Lajat left the Pass in 1911 and was succeeded by Rev. Father Sammutt, who took up residence in Blairmore, becoming the first resident priest. Blairmore was for some time after Father Sammutt's departure attended as a mission from Coleman by Father Delestre, now of Fernie, B.C. Before Father Delestre's departure in 1912 - 13 from Blairmore and Frank were attended by Father Beaton, now of Victoria. B.C.



Rev. Fr. Delestre,  
1912 - 13 from  
Coleman.

In the meantime, Blairmore was growing and with its development and expansion the number of Catholics in the Parish increased accordingly. By the time the Rev. P. J. N. Cosman came, succeeding Father Beaton in June, 1916, it was found the little church would not accommodate the ever growing number of parishioners.

In the spring of 1918 the church built by Father Lajat at Frank, was overturned in a very severe wind-storm and the little building then being used as a church in Blairmore was much too small, so in April of 1919 Father Cosman formed a building committee, whose purpose was to look into the feasibility of build-



Rev. Ronald Beaton, 1914-16



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Rev. P. J. N. Cos-  
man, 1916 - 1926.

ing a new church and to raise funds to accomplish this if it was found that a new building was a necessity.

The committee reported a new church building to be necessary to the welfare of the parish; they were successful in getting together sufficient funds with which to start work on a new edifice. It was not until May, 1919, that permission was received from His Lordship the Bishop, the Most Rev. J. T. McNally of the Calgary diocese, of which Blairmore parish was a part, to commence building the new church.

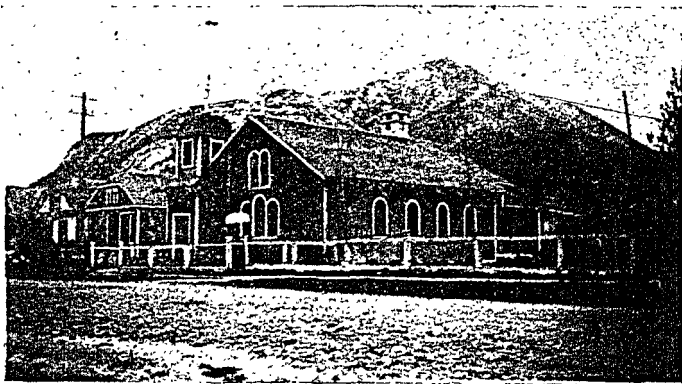
Considerable credit is due to the Catholics, under the leadership of their pastor, Rev. P. J. N. Cosman, for the energy and enthusiasm dis-

# Greetings - -

From



Lethbridge: Canada



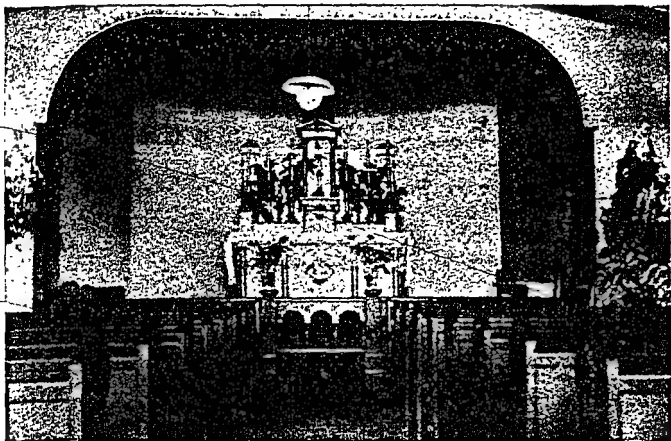
St. Anne's Church, Blairmore, with Rectory to the left and Tennis Court on the right. Turtle Mountain in the background.

played, so that their dream of having an up-to-date church building would soon be an accomplished fact.

Their efforts in this direction were at last rewarded. Construction of the church commenced, and by the early Spring of 1920, the last nail had been driven, the building ready for its sacred purpose.

Of frame and stucco construction, with Gothic windows, high bell tower, and with the old building joined to the new to be used as a vestry, the parishioners were mighty proud of what they had accomplished.

Inside the church, an altar costing many hundreds of dollars was installed. No expense was spared in making a suitable tabernacle, which was to guard the Sacred Presence. A communion rail was bought at a cost of over \$200.00. Two statues were procured; one, representing the "Immaculate Conception," was bought by the parish;



Interior of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Christmas, 1931.

and the other, representing "St. Anne and Her Child," was donated by the Catholic Slovak Society. Thirteen stained glass windows were installed, but seven of these were later on replaced with seven memorial windows costing over \$100.00 each. Twenty eight pews were at the disposal of the congregation, and the Stations of the Cross, of Gothic architecture with raised figures, were erected by Bishop McNally.

On a Sunday morning in June, 1920, before many Catholics and Non-Catholics from different Pass towns, who crowded into the new church, His Lordship Bishop McNally blessed the altar and placed the church under the special protection of St. Anne.

During the next few years the parish set itself the task of paying off the moneys borrowed and used for

building the church; but in this they were as successful as in raising it, for by the time Rev. Father Cosman left Blairmore, the parish was free from debt, not only having paid off the church debt, but had bought the house next door to the church in April, 1921, from Mr. Finlay McLaren, to be used as a rectory for their parish priest.

Father Cosman was succeeded by Rev. J. B. Moriarty, now of Banff, who was in charge from May until Rev. M. A. Harrington was appointed in September 1926, and under his guidance the parish developed still further. One of Father Harrington's first acts was to have the women of the parish form Senior and Junior sub-divisions of the "Catholic Women's League of Canada." The devotion of the First Friday was begun and The League of the Sacred Heart established.



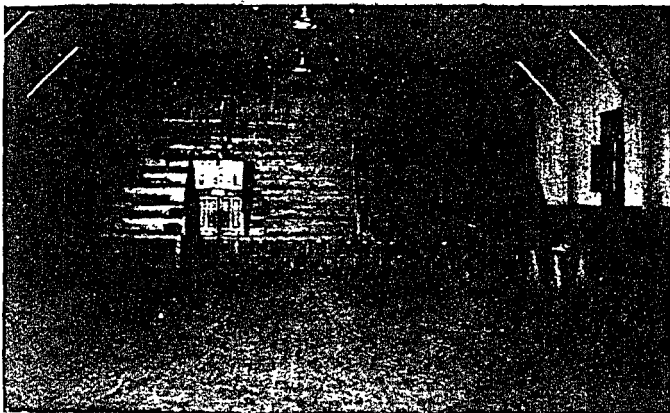
Rev. M. A. Harrington, September 17, 1926.

Realizing the great need of supervised amusement, the Blairmore Opera House was purchased in May 1928, and re-named Columbus Hall, to be used by the parishioners for their sports and church activities.

The spacious floor of the hall was ideal for basketball, and teams were formed amongst the boys and girls of the parish. Soon after other basketball teams were formed in the Pass towns and many a fast and exciting game has been played at the Columbus Hall between the Columbus Club Cyclones, senior boys, senior girls, junior and midget teams, and teams from all over Alberta and Eastern B.C.

The basement was converted into an up-to-date gymnasium; shower baths were installed, boxing ring erected, individual lockers made for the members, physical instruction given to classes, and many other sports played by the members.





Main floor and seating accommodation at rear of Columbus Hall, showing main entrance to hall at left, kitchen entrance at right, railings up to top deck at centre and behind main entrance. Floor space 76 feet long, stage 24 feet deep and 21 feet covered by bleacher seats. Width 45 feet. Height from floor to ceiling 20 feet. Kitchen, cloak rooms, ticket office and store rooms underneath balcony seats.

Not only is basketball played, but the large floor space permits the operation of three Badminton courts, so that during any hour of the day members may be found in this mecca of sport.

Here each year, the members of St. Anne's Dramatic Club, stage their annual play on the seventeenth of March, the anniversary of St. Patrick. They have won much success and renown, playing before packed houses, not only in Blairmore, but in Kimberley, Cranbrook, Pincher Creek, Corbin and many other towns.



The stage in the Columbus hall, with an outdoor scene.

Each month "The First Catholic Slovak Society of Canada," Blairmore branch, hold their meetings, and here also The Catholic Women's League stage their annual bazaar. This event is eagerly looked forward to by Non-Catholics as well as Catholics. Held in the fall of the year, many purchase Christmas gifts for the coming Yuletide season, and each year through their efforts the women are successful in raising a considerable amount of money which helps in meeting the operating expenses of the Parish.

In 1927, a vacant lot immediately joining the West side of the church building was purchased and St. Anne's Tennis Club was formed, giving fun and enjoyment to many adults and children of the parish at a very nominal cost. Each year the club shows a large membership.

Due to the untiring efforts of Father Harrington, and the generosity of many men of the parish in supplying free labor, trucks and material, the Catholic cemetery, just north of the town, was placed in a very presentable

condition. Old graves were made more pleasing to the eye, decayed and broken down fences removed, tons of rubbish, refuse, rocks, etc., were carted away and the ground leveled off. Plots were marked off, in rows, and numbered. Water, a long needed want, was piped into the cemetery, to keep the grounds fresh and green. The cemetery lay-out was blue printed. The number of each plot is noted thereon, together with the names of all known persons buried there. Years hence, should a person be unable to find the grave of a departed relative or friend it will be easily located by referring to the blue print which is kept by the parish priest at the rectory.

With a large white cross in its centre, the whole enclosure is surrounded by a stable fence, and with well kept graves within, the cemetery now presents a picture of peace, sacredness and rest, an appropriate place for the final resting place of Catholic dead.

Greetings--

From

Hotel  
Royal

CALGARY

to

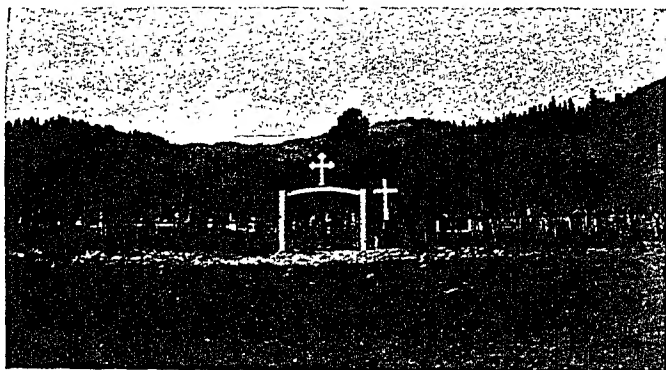
St. Anne's  
Catholic Church,  
Blairmore,  
- on its -

25th Anniversary

Courteous Service

Welcome Hospitality

C. B. Barrell, Manager



St. Anne's Catholic Cemetery.

The spiritual welfare of the Catholic children is carefully watched and attended to by having catechism classes every morning of the week before school and twice on week days after school, these classes being held in addition to the usual Sunday school classes of every Sunday.

The church is well served by two choirs, a senior and junior, who sing the glories and praises of God. The senior choir has for its choirmaster, Mr. Mike Panik, while Miss Kathleen Tompkins leads the junior choir. Mrs. Geo. Bond is church organist.

The parish belonging to the diocese of Calgary, has been served by four bishops during the last twenty-five years, viz: Bishop Legal, Bishop McNally, Bishop Kidd and the present incumbent of the office, Bishop P. J. Monahan, who, being highly pleased with the progress made by the parish during the last twenty-five years, most graciously consented to be present at the anniversary festivities and will offer a Pontifical High Mass in Blairmore on the morning of the celebration. This Mass will be cele-

brated on the grounds of the Blairmore Stadium.

So, former and present members of the parish look back over the history of the church in Blairmore for the last twenty-five years with no little pride, recalling the events from the time Bishop Legal borrowed a silver mug, consecrated it, and used it as a chalice at Mass said in a private house, with no more than a dozen Catholics present, if that many, to the present day parish with its large organization and ramifications, with approximately 800 members belonging to it, it can be truthfully said that the graces and goodwill of a loving Father in Heaven have been bestowed upon the parish and its parishioners. Gloria in Excelsis Deo.

—J. V. McDOUGALL.

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## Jubilee Committee

MRS. A. M. DUTIL.

C. J. TOMPKINS.

J. E. GILLIS.

JOHN KUBIC.

M. SARTORIS.

J. LENCUCHA.

J. V. McDOUGALL.

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**G. K. SIRETT**

BELLEVUE  
and  
BLAIRMORE

Painter - Paperhanger  
Decorator

Office and Works  
Bellevue - Phone 16m

MICHAEL ALPHONSUS HARRINGTON was born at Killaloe, Ontario on September 15, 1900. After elementary and high school education at Killaloe and Eganville, he studied at St. Alexander's College, Ironsides, Que. and St. Jerome's College, Kitchener and completed his theological studies at St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, Ont.

Ordained to the priesthood at Eganville, Ont., on May 29, 1926, he joined the Diocese of Calgary and was appointed pastor of St. Anne's, Blairmore in the fall of 1926. During his twenty four years in that post he worked successfully among the youth who were, for the most part, children of immigrants from central and southern Europe. Through his encouragement, many young people whose fathers were coal miners continued their education and today occupy high positions in government, the professions and in business. He is still remembered in the Crow's Nest Pass as one who was open to both sides during the bitter strike of 1932 and who helped to maintain a sense of social sanity throughout that period.

He became the founding pastor of St. Basil's Parish, Lethbridge in 1950 where he was instrumental in building a church, hall and rectory.

In 1952 he was named Bishop of Kamloops and received episcopal ordination on November 20th, 1952 in St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary, Alberta, through Cardinal James Charles McGuligan, of Toronto, assisted by Bishop Francis P. Carroll, of Calgary and Bishop William J. Smith, of Pembroke.

Bishop Harrington died at Kamloops on August 2, 1973.

#### ST. ANNE'S PARISH, BLAIRMORE, ALBERTA.

Blairmore began developing as a mining community shortly after the railway was completed through the Crow's Nest Pass in 1898. Oblate Fathers said Mass at Blairmore occasionally in halls, stores and homes, usually coming from Pincher Creek. In 1908 there was an influx of miners from Cape Breton; and in 1910 a small paint shop was bought and renovated and Mass was said several times a month. A resident priest was appointed in 1911. A church was built in 1920 under Rev. P. J. N. Cosman, and a house on the adjoining property was purchased as a priest's residence.

Rev. M.A. Harrington, who succeeded Father Cosman in 1926, enlarged the church and established a cemetery. Under his direction the parish bought and renovated the former Blairmore Opera House and turned it into a community hall and gymnasium. \*During his term as pastor, Father Harrington was active in Pass-wide community undertakings. He was founder of a Credit Union in the Crow's Nest Pass and for many years was a member of the provincial executive of the credit union movement in Alberta.

\*This section could perhaps be incorporated into his biographical notes.